In the claims:

1. (Amended) A lift for watercraft having raised and lowered positions and adapted to be mounted in a body of water, the lift comprising:

a) a substantially rectangular base having first and second pairs of vertical corner posts that are connected to and carry longitudinal beams, the base further having two transverse beams connected to the longitudinal beams;

b) a pivoting cradle attached to the base;

c) watercraft support bunks connected to the pivoting cradle;

d) a pair of actuators each comprising a cylinder and a rod,

wherein each cylinder has two ends, a first end opposite a second end, the second end having an aperture that receives the rod, and wherein each rod has two ends, a first end opposite a second end, the second end being retractable into the cylinder, ~~each~~ the first end of the rod connected ~~on one end~~ to the pivoting cradle and the first end of the cylinder connected ~~on its other end~~ to one of the first pair of corner posts and the cylinder terminates at the corner post, wherein each actuator remains at all times completely within a perimeter defined by the rectangular base, the actuators being operable for rotating the cradle upward and past its pivotal connection to the base to a raised lift position, wherein the raised lift position is overcenter;

e) wherein each of the first pair of corner posts is adapted to be long enough that at least a portion of the corner posts is above a water level of the body of water in which the lift is mounted, and the actuators are connected to the corner posts in the portion of the corner posts above the water level.

2. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 1, further comprising cradle retainers mounted on the first pair of corner posts, the retainers adapted to support the cradle in the raised lift position.

3. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 1, wherein the watercraft support bunks are mounted on an angle onto the pivoting cradle.

4. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 1, wherein the actuators are bidirectional hydraulic cylinders.

5. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 4, wherein the cylinders have rods that move in an extension direction when the rods extend out of the cylinder and move in a retraction direction when the rods retract into the cylinder; and

wherein the upward rotation of the cradle to the raised lift position is created by movement in the retraction direction of the rods into the cylinders.

6. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 5, further wherein the rods are substantially completely retracted into the cylinders when the lift is in the raised position.

7. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 1, wherein each of the corner posts comprises a telescoping leg whereby the lift height and level may be adjusted.

8. (Original) The lift for watercraft described in claim 1, wherein the actuators are above the water level when the lift is in the raised position.

9. (Twice Amended) A lift for raising a cradle on which a watercraft may be supported above a water level of a body of water for storage of the watercraft out of the water and for selectively lowering the cradle into the body of water, the lift comprising:

a rectangular base pivotally connected to and supporting the cradle;

a hydraulic cylinder having a rod retractable therein and extendible therefrom for raising and lowering the cradle, ~~the cylinder connected on one end to the base and the rod connected on the other end to the cradle~~ the cylinder having two ends, a first end opposite a second end, the second end having an aperture that receives the rod; the rod having two ends, a first end opposite a second end, the second end being retractable into the cylinder; the first end of the cylinder connected to and terminating at the base and the first end of the rod connected to the cradle, wherein the cylinder and rod remain at all times completely within a perimeter defined by the rectangular base, the rod being moveable between a retracted position wherein the rod is substantially within the cylinder and an extended position wherein the rod is substantially outside the cylinder, the cradle being in a raised position when the rod is in the retracted position; and

wherein the hydraulic cylinder is substantially above the level of the body of water when the rod is in the retracted position.